7:Roquette-Pinto--63 E-4, 5 (no date)1938 SP17 Nambicuara SP17 (ca. 1912)

105 To summarize our findings on the Nambicuara, we shall now list certain postulates documented in this book.

1. The Serra do Norte Indians were discovered by the Rondon Expeditions, at first in 1907 in the Juruena Valley and later in the whole mountain range.

Up to that time only hazy references to this group existed; the first date from 1718.

2. All the names given them by their neighbors and collected by travelers and frontiersmen are completely alien to the Nambicuara language. One group among them will probably be equated with the so-called Tapanyuna or Tapayuna, mentioned by some authors as if they were colonies of runaway African slaves. . . . .

3. All Serra do Norte Indians, with their axes of ill-polished stone and wooden knives, lived to this day in the midst of the stone age; they were unfamiliar with navigation, pottery making and hammocks, and slept directly on the ground.

The very crude pottery they use is looted or bartered from neighboring tribes. To this day, in spite of more than five years of contact, no one has seen them make pottery.

[313] 4. They had remained almost completely isolated; many of them had never seen white men or Negroes.

5. They live in isolated groups and speak dialects of the same language which are in process of differentiation. Those words pertaining to the principal parts of the human body, in accordance with observations made long ago among Indians in general, are least susceptible to morphological differentiation.

6. These groups are not all at the same stage of cultural development. Those who live in the Juruena Valley are the most backward: they are less sociable, more aggressive; they build rudimentary houses; they do not use the barbecue; they have no permanent chiefs. Those who live in the farther reaches of the Serra do Norte have already attained a considerably higher stage of civilization which is revealed in their art and in their social customs.

7. As to linguistic affinities, the Serra do Norte Indians could be included most easily in the Ge-Botocudo group. The languages most similar to Nambicuara are those of the Suya (discovered on the Xingu in 1884 by the Karl von den Steinen expedition) and of the Caraja on the Araguaia River.

105 Kiriri is another language which bears some similarity to the dialects of the Serra do Norte.

8. In addition to linguistic affinities, the Serra do Norte Indians present certain ethnographic traits peculiar to the Ge-Botocudo tribes and rarely found among Indians of other groups: unfamiliarity with navigation and the hammock, absence of pottery, screens of leaves and branches, etc.

This being the case, the Serra do Norte Indians (Nambicuara) add a western link to the chain [314] of Ge peoples whose westernmost representatives had been until now the Suya.

9. The Nambicuara have been neighbors of the Paressi for centuries but have been influenced only slightly by that tribe. The two cultures kept evolving side by side, at different stages of development and with little interaction.

10. Agriculture arose early among the Serra do Norte Indians; this seems to have resulted from the demands of the geographical environment. It is almost certain, however, that the rise of this activity was conditioned by alien influences, not yet known, which provided the opportunity to acquire the necessary materials; for the species encountered among the Nambicuara are the same as those cultivated by other inhabitants of the region.

11. From the standpoint of physical anthropology, the Serra do Norte Indians are completely distinct from their neighbors. Those American Indians who come closest to them in terms of anatomical characteristics are the Nu-Arawakan.

12. The Serra do Norte Indians are affected by a special skin disease . . . which is unknown to their neighbors . . . [and] probably a variety of tinea imbricata.

[104 137] 13. Their main parasites are Siphonaptera (chigoe, (1) believed

1. Tunga penetrans.

to be of African origin but definitely a species of tropical America); and Hemiptera of the Pediculus humanus species, which are found among all the world's peoples. [Plates, p. 264.] [315] Perhaps this particular insect should be considered a variant on account of its size.

105 14. The Serra do Norte Indians seem to have reached the heart of South America in a very remote period.

15. Their featherwork is poor and barely beginning. Their music is well advanced. Their drawings (linear, poligonal, circular) are traced evenly; the only (stylized) living forms are of saurians and ophidians.

16. They seem to have preserved vivid memories of anthropophagy, if indeed they no longer practice it.

17. Their religion consists of a pantheistic fetishism among the more backward groups; the more advanced show signs of an incipient astrolatry.

18. Whatever the ethnographic position which later studies may assign to the Serra do Norte Indians, their discovery in that region, at that stage of culture, profoundly altered certain precepts of Brazilian anthropology.

19. If they are definitively included among the Ge, the theory of an eastern or coastal origin for this group will become practically untenable.

[316] 20. If they are placed among the Arawakan group, their discovery will acquire even greater significance: according to Von den Steinen's theory, the original habitat of a people is the area where its most backward representatives are to be found.

21. The Nu-Arawakan migration, in this case, would have occurred from south to north, contrary to the classical precepts of South American ethnology.

22. With their physical characteristics close to those of the Arawakan, their isolated language, and the ethnographic traits they share with the Ge, the Serra do Norte Indians prove an important "geo-anthropological" truth which had been implied since the exploration of the Xingu area.

It was on the great Brazilian plateau that the process of ethnic differentiation began in South America.

2: Steinen--662 E,D-5 (1884, 1887-1888) 1894 SP7 Bacairi
Nambiquara SP17
Apiaca SP2
Guarayu SF11
Brazilian Indians SL4

N /562 cont./

105 175 [131] [162] 23. Nambiquarás. 600 at the confluence of the Rio de Peixe and the Arinos. Hunting, fishing, fruits of the sierra, implements of wood and stone. Carry on habitual warfare with their neighbors, especially the Apiacás. Will have nothing to do with the Brazilians, attack canoes on their way to Pará, but are very much afraid of firearms and offer no open resistance.

A 105 175 [131] [162] 25. Tapanhunas. Of the same type as the preceding ones. About 800 at the confluence of the Tapajoz and the Arinos.

25. Apiacáz. Dwellers along the Juruena, also visit the shores of the Arinos. They have iron goods and carry on agriculture, hunting, fishing. In their feuds with the Nambiquarás and the Tapanhunas they remain more on the defensive, but have nevertheless not by any means given up their original anthropophagous customs. Assist travelers, sell farina from mandioca, roasted maize, carás, batatas, sweet mandioca (aypim), beans, watermelons, gourds, birds, and honey, as well as wide-meshed hammocks of cotton or tucum palm, feather ornaments.

BI. 105 175 26. Mequens. On the like-named tributary of the Guaporé between the Guaraios and Palmellas. They flee; gifts which were put in the forest were not accepted.

G 105 175 [131] 27. Guaraios. At a place called Pao Cerne, 50 leagues from Matto Grosso. Mandioca, beans, maize; hunting, fishing. Seek out travelers.

G [167] [61] [Report of 1850: Moved over from Pao Cerne in 1852 to the Aldea de Sta. Ignez somewhat below Matto Grosso. 31 tribes of 40 families = 1240, originating, it is assumed, from a settlement in the Bolivian province of "Mofos" (not "Moxos").]

BI. 105 175 131 28. Cautarios. On the like-named rivers between the Mamoré and Forte Principe. Fishing, hunting, wild fruits, mandioca. Harm us as much as they possibly can. They are robbers, traitors, and murderers.

29. Paceáz. On the Mamoré east of the Guaporé mouth up to the first cataract. Quite unknown.

30. Senabós. West of the Mamoré up to the first cataract. Unknown. At war with the Jacarés (31).